

2 February 1966

STAT

objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. McCLELLAN. Mr. President, under the same conditions on which I have yielded to other Senators, I now yield to the distinguished Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. McGOVERN. I thank the Senator from Arkansas for yielding to me. I asked him to yield for the purpose of obtaining unanimous consent to place in the RECORD a transcript of the discussion between the distinguished chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Mr. FULBRIGHT) and two noted Columbia Broadcasting System news correspondents, Mr. Eric Sevareid and Mr. Martin Agronsky. The discussion took place on the CBS Network between 10:30 and 11 o'clock last night, Eastern Standard Time. It was another impressive demonstration of Senator FULBRIGHT's uncommon commonsense.

Much of the discussion centered around the issue of Vietnam, and our policy not only in that country, but in other parts of Asia as well. The discussion was a most thoughtful, interesting, and forthright statement of the issues.

Near the end of the broadcast, Mr. Sevareid asked Senator FULBRIGHT if he thought that high ranking public officials could afford the luxury of public pessimism. Senator FULBRIGHT offered what I believe to be a perfect answer.

He said:

It seems to me that we all get along better if we say what we think, whether it is pessimistic or optimistic.

That is a good admonition to all of us. It is sometimes difficult to speak out on controversial questions, particularly at a time when our country is committed to battle. No one enjoys the prospect of having his words twisted in such a way as to imply that he has somehow undercut what our troops are trying to accomplish or has undercut the national interest in any way. But there has never been a time in our history when plain, honest talk was so desperately needed. And every Senator speaks for war or peace by his silence as well as by his words.

We are involved in what I believe is the most dangerous venture in which this country has ever been engaged. We must turn every possible stone in an effort to end this war and to bring it to a conclusion before we are pulled into what would be the most disastrous development that anyone could imagine, and that is a major all-out war on the Asian mainland.

In my judgment the great generals who have warned us against that in the past have been absolutely right. I believe that it would be calamitous for this country to take steps which would bring on such a war.

I hope that we will do everything we can to prevent that. I believe that the President wants to avoid that kind of a conflict but he needs to hear our honest convictions about this ill-advised venture in Vietnam.

One way to avoid an even larger conflict is by honest talk. If Senators will only speak out and say what they really

#### MORE COMMONSENSE FROM SENATOR FULBRIGHT

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Arkansas yield to me?

Mr. McCLELLAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remarks of all the Senators who have preceded me, and to whom I have yielded, precede in the RECORD the remarks I shall make. I should like to preserve the continuity of my remarks. I feel certain that no Senator will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there